

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph which begins on line 13 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

By way of example, an 'Internet draft' document "Differentiated Services Model and Definitions" written by K. Nichols and S. Blake, published by the Internet Engineering Task Force in February 1998, (~~Internet page: http://www.ietf.org/internet-draft/draft-nichols-dsopdef-00.txt~~) proposes a method which permits accelerated transmission of data packets from an origin node to a destination node. For data packets associated with a data service which demands a high transmission bandwidth, particular bits of the 'TOS byte' are respectively set in the header part of such data packets. On the basis of the bits which have been set in the TOS byte, the data packets are assigned to different quality classes. Depending on the assigned quality class, the data packets are possibly given preferential treatment in the intermediate nodes. As such, accelerated forwarding, that is to say virtually without delay, to the next intermediate or network node is attempted. An example of a quality class with low priority is the "Best Effort" class customary on the Internet. According to this, the data packets are handled as soon as possible, and as many as possible from one data service are handled. An example of a quality class having very high priority is the "Premium" class, which is distinguished by extremely short delay times and is, therefore, more or less comparable to a virtual connection.

Please replace the paragraph which begins on line 1 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Additional comments relating to the method explained above can be found in other Internet draft documents "An Architecture for Differentiated Services", written by D. Blake, S. Blake, M. Carlson, E. Davies, Zh. Wang, W. Weiss, published by the Internet Engineering Task Force in May 1998, (~~Internet page: http://www.ietf.org/internet-draft/draft-ietf-diffserv-arch-00.txt~~) and "A Framework for Differentiated Services", written by Y. Bernet, J. Binder, S. Blake, M. Carlson, S. Keshav, E. Davies, B. Ohlman, D. Verma, Zh. Wang, W. Weiss, published by the Internet Engineering Task Force in October 1998 (~~Internet page: http://www.ietf.org/internet-draft/draft-ietf-diffserv-framework-01.txt~~).